

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th DECEMBER 2023

Mr D Broad (Chairman) Mr G Broad, Mr M Dentith, Mr A Kingsley, Mr A McLellan, Mr I Morgan & Mrs E Broad (Clerk)
County & District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

APOLOGIES: Mr A Cola

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th November 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: The Chairman to remind Councillors of the need to declare interests as necessary.

OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC: Councillor Hodgkinson gave a brief report, he mentioned that GCC had changed the way it dealt with highway issues, a new Gloucestershire version of Fix my Street was on the website which seemed to be a lot faster dealing with issues. One part of the Whiteway had been resurfaced and the bit from the Rendcomb turning to Chedworth Airfield was due to be resurfaced from 8th to 16th January. GCC budget consultation was currently out for consultation until after Christmas. There was still a problem with the Cotswold School bus returning late in the evenings. A road safety audit was due to be undertaken in the new year. The GATSO speed camera by the Stump on the Fosseway had disappeared with the wires seemingly being cut and the unit removed. Mr Robertson spoke about the Seven Tuns being closed again. Councillor Hodgkinson asked about progress with registering it as an Asset of Community Value with CDC. The Chairman explained that no progress had been made although he had applied twice since February. Councillor Hodgkinson asked that the forms were copied to him and he would chase this up. Mr Harrison reported that he had a contact that might enable the matter be brought to the attention of Jamie Ruben son of one of the Ruben brothers who own Wellington Pub Company.

The Chairman brought item two items forward on the agenda.

Supporting the Seven Tuns: When Council reconvened, it was agreed that a group of interested persons get together away from the Council to make a case to the Rubens MD through Mr Harrison's contact. It was also agreed to make enquiries about purchasing the fixture and fittings if the pub goes into receivership.

Tuns Hill Waterfall & The Stream: A reply had been received from Susanne Humm, GCC. After some discussion Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to send an email to both CDC & GCC Highways to see what is happening. It was also suggested by Seb Clarke at The Manor that an independent engineer should be instructed to report on the problem. It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr Dentith to find out the cost of an engineer but to spend no money at present, agreed.

PLANNING:

23/03526/FUL Pike House Fossebridge - Erection of replacement conservatory – No objection
23/00764/FUL The Barn, Denfurlong Farm - Erection of carport with ancillary accommodation

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above and garden room – No objection with reference to no light pollution from external lighting
23/02358/FUL Robins Cottage, Calves Hill - Two-storey side extension, following demolition of single storey extension – No objection with 2 in favour and 4 abstentions

23/02359/LBC Robins Cottage, Calves Hill - Listed Building Consent – No objection

23/03586/FUL Saffron Hill - Erection of two storey side extension, addition of rear dormers, driveway alterations and associated works – No objection 5 in favour, 1 abstention

23/03211/DMPO Rendcomb Airfield: Councillor Hodgkinson reported that this application would not be going to committee on 16th December.

Neighbourhood Plan: Nothing further. Mr Dentith asked what the current situation was with the Neighbourhood Plan as it had been suggested it could help with the proposed shop/café application from Sian Jones. The Chairman explained the problems that had cropped up during the work done to date on the plan which caused it to be effectively abandoned. It was felt that the plan was effectively dead in the water.

Dark Skies: Mr Cola had given us two more reports for the February and March Hill & Valley.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

a) Roadside Verges:

i) To receive any update on verge cutting/flailing in the village: Mr Morgan reported that the heaps of grass had been moved away.

ii) Wildflower Trial Notices: Nothing further

iii) Kerb stones on the verge outside Whitegates: It was agreed to remove from the agenda.

b) Cooks Hill, Reduced Width: Nothing further.

c) Tuns Hill Waterfall & The Stream: dealt with earlier on the agenda.

d) Road Safety around St Andrews School: Nothing further.

e) Grit Bins: The two new bins had been delivered and were in the shed at the Village Hall. Mr McLellan reported that a pallet of salt had been delivered to the store. Seb Clarke was looking at location some by the Cricket Field for easier access. Mr McLellan also reported that he had received a 100% positive response from the wardens who were on standby.

f) Road Conditions in Chedworth and surrounding area: Nothing further but are area of the Whiteway had been resurfaced.

g) Traffic Speed on Fields Road: Mr McLellan reported that two speed checks had taken place recently and had found no excessive speeding. They may be a couple of reasons, such as vehicles parked in the road causing vehicles to slow down, for this. The equipment had been borrowed and it was no certain how much longer it could be kept. After some discussion it was proposed from the Chairman and seconded by Mr Dentith to spend up to £300.00 to purchase our own equipment, agreed with 1 abstention. Mr McLellan would draw up a list of what was required.

h) Broken Fence between The Hemplands & Lower Barn Entrance: A reply had been received from GCC Highways stating that the fence was the property of Thames Water.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Chedworth Nature Reserve: An email had been received from Ian Stevenson GWT suggesting some courses of action including the GWT owning the site thus avoiding the problem of the insurance issues with the bridges, and the Parish Council taking over

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responsibility for the maintenance. After some discussion it was agreed to reply asking Mr Stevenson if he had a suggested draft form of agreement which we could look over. It was also agreed to ask Emma Barron if she had if she had made any progress with recruiting volunteers.

Footpaths:

- a) KCH 64: It was reported that the path had been cleared.
- b) KCH 47: The agreed waymarks had been installed. An email thanking the Council for waymarking the path had been received from a parishioner.

The Grass Keep Field:

- a) Tree Planting on Diggers Field: Nothing further.

Tennis Court Ash Trees: Three quotations had been received from Mr Baker HVLTC. After consideration it was proposed by Mr G Broad and seconded by Mr Dentith to accept the lowest quote from Corinium ARB for £800.00, was agreed.

CDC Digital Inclusion Courses: Nothing further.

Village Hall Solar Energy Project: The Chairman invited Mr Robertson to speak. Mr Robertson gave a brief update as to how many solar panels were required. He felt it was the right time to make a grant bid to CDC, he had passed this over to the Village Hall committee to progress it.

Christmas Lights: The Chairman reported that the old lights on the tree were not working very well when new batteries were installed. It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr G Broad to purchase some new lights up to the £250.00 agreed previously, agreed with 2 abstentions. The Clerk would ask Mr Pierce when the previous lights were purchased from.

Retirement of Nick Price of Bibury Landscapes: New arrangements would have to be made for next year. It was agreed to write and wish Mr Price all the best and ask if he had any suggestions as to who might be interested in taking on the cutting Bibury have done in recent years.

New Battery required for VH Defibrillator: An email had been received from Sarah Smith saying that a new battery was required for the Village Hall defibrillator. It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr G Broad to go ahead and order one, agreed.

FINANCE:

1. Clerks Quarterly Salary £710.00, prop. I Morgan, sec. A McLellan
2. Clerks Quarterly Mileage £9.65, prop. A Kingsley, sec. M Dentith
3. IONOS (Hosting of Village Website November 2023) Direct Debit £4.80, prop. D Broad, sec. G Broad
4. IONOS (Hosting of Parish Council Website December 2023) Direct Debit £7.20, prop. D Broad, sec. G Broad
5. Castle Water (Grass Keep Water Standing Charge) £24.54, prop. D Broad, sec. G Broad
6. SLCC Renewal £80.00, prop. I Morgan, sec. G Broad
7. Kingfisher Direct (2 Grit Bins) (£200.00 + VAT) £240.00 Retrospective, prop. D Broad, sec. G Broad
8. Cotswolds National Landscape (Wildflower Seeds) £200.00, prop. I Morgan, sec. A Kingsley

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9. GAPTC Renewal Fee 1/4/23 to 31/3/24 £216.29 – It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by MR G Broad not to subscribe, agreed.
10. Council in receipt of £2963.84 Grass Verge Cutting Reimbursement from GCC
11. Appointment of Independent Internal Auditor for 2023/24 Audit – It was proposed by Mr Morgan and seconded by Mr Kingsley to appoint Mr Iain Selkirk, agreed.
12. Setting of 2024/25 Precept – To be returned to CDC by 31st January 2024

The meeting concluded at 9.21pm.

NEXT MEETING: Parish Council Meeting - Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm.
Precept Meeting - Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7.30pm.

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Date.....